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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

First formed in 1948, the Air Standardization Coordinating Committee (ASCC) is an active and productive international organization that has been working for the air forces of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Its principle objective is ***to ensure member nations are able to fight side-by-side as airmen in joint and combined operations***.

The ASCC objective is achieved by the standardization of doctrine, operational procedures, materiel and equipment. ASCC also exchanges technical information and arranges the free loan of equipment between member nations for test and evaluation purposes. The results of these tests are usually distributed to all nations.

Each member nation supports ASCC with a small group of people from its flag rank National Directors down through staff and project officers at appropriate level and rank. All provide expertise to the organization and its working groups and bring back international information to national headquarters and operational commands. Much of the ASCC standardization effort, specifically the internationally adopted Air Standards, is incorporated into the respective national documents.

This pamphlet will introduce you to ASCC history, the structure of the organization and some points of contact; please take a few moments to read it. This organization's results, proven through recent coalition operations in East Timor and Afghanistan, continues to be the solution to problems currently perceived as beyond the ability of a single nation to resolve.

Website: <http://www.xo.hq.af.mil/xor/xorg-iso/ascc>



PURPOSE OF ASCC

First formed in 1948, the Air Standardization Coordinating Committee (ASCC) is an active and productive international organization that has been working for the air forces of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to improve coalition aerospace power effectiveness in both peace and war.

Each member nation supports ASCC with a small group of people from its flag rank National Directors down through staff and project officers at appropriate level and rank. All provide expertise to the organization and its working groups and bring back international information to national headquarters and operational commands. Much of the ASCC standardization effort, specifically the internationally adopted Air Standards (AIR STDs), is incorporated into the respective national documents.

In response to the changing international operational environment, the ASCC continues to evolve its activities to facilitate coalition air operations. The ASCC embraces a forward-looking focus in pursuit of coalition effectiveness, taking account of the following factors:

- the full spectrum of conflict in which Coalition operations occur - from military operations other than war to major theatre war
- the requirement to integrate air, space, naval and land components into an effective Joint Force with little lead-time
- the need to facilitate rapid decision and execution cycles for expeditionary operations that may include non-ASCC nations
- the likely deployment of smaller coalition forces, where individual National contributions may comprise only a few aircraft or a small support element
- the preferred use of non-government and commercial off-the-shelf technology, in place of military specific standards and equipment
- the rapid development cycles of new or improved technologies

Mission Statement. The mission of the ASCC is:

‘to ensure that member nations are able to fight side by side as airmen in joint and combined operations.’

ASCC Objective. Through collective agreements, and in cooperation with other international standardization organizations, members will strive to ensure there will be no doctrinal, operational, technical, or materiel obstacle to full co-operation between the forces of the member nations, and to ensure the greatest possible economy of effort. Interoperability is the ability of coalition forces to train, exercise, and operate effectively together, in the execution of assigned missions and tasks. Within available resources, the ASCC objective of interoperability is achieved through:

- **Standardization**
- **Validation**
- **Economical Use of Resources**
- **Exchange of Information**

Standardization Principles. Standardization is not an end in itself, but is a tool for increasing the operational effectiveness of coalition military forces. Its primary purpose is to achieve specified operational standardization requirements. International standardization agreements are implemented through national documents that should cross-reference the international agreement. There are three levels of standardization:

- **Compatibility** - the suitability of products, processes or services for use together under specific conditions to fulfil relevant requirements without causing unacceptable interactions
- **Interchangeability** - the ability of one product, process or service to be used in place of another to fulfil the same requirements
- **Commonality** - the state achieved when the same doctrine, procedures, or equipment are used



Validation. Validation assesses the extent to which ASCC member nations have achieved the specified operational standardization requirements and focuses on assessing the capability for combined air operations. Validation is conducted through the following activities:

- analyzing the lessons identified/learned during operations and exercises
- assessing the relevance, adequacy and effectiveness of existing standards
- confirming that national implementing documents reflect ratified Air Standards
- testing interoperability during exercises or operations

Economical Use of Resources. The ASCC provides opportunities for both formal and informal collaboration on issues of common interest to air forces, thereby sharing successes and avoiding duplication of effort. The following activities may be conducted where they improve national or coalition capabilities, while reducing overall costs:

- the loan of equipment through the Test Project Agreement (TPA) program
- collaborative activities not covered by other organizations
- standardization of equipment or procedures not directly related to combat operations, where this is expected to result in significant savings and/or improvements to flight safety

Exchange of Information. Formal and informal exchanges of information improve the operational effectiveness of national forces, which in turn enhances the capability of coalition forces. The exchanges also contribute toward ASCC goals by:

- enhancing interoperability where standardization is inappropriate or where individual national requirements preclude standardization
- determining the viability of proposed standardization projects

ASCC PRODUCTS

Air Standards (AIR STDs) and Advisory Publications (ADV PUBs). The Working Parties develop internationally agreed AIR STDs that are incorporated into each nation's operating procedures. If a document is more of a guide to interoperability, an ADV PUB is produced. The ASCC has some 340 published documents.

Information Publications (INFO PUBs). INFO PUBs are documents that contain information for the prime purpose of exchange between members of a Working Party. The information contained in this publication may be used to support further Working Party activity, but is not of a nature that requires it to be formally distributed as an Advisory Publication.

Test Project Agreements (TPAs). Part of the ASCC Charter allows for the free exchange of equipment between member nations. These loans are for research, development, test and evaluation, potentially leading to standardization or purchase.

Other Publications. The Management Committee produces two management documents:

- **The Task Order.** The ASCC Task Order is the strategic guidance that enables the National Directors to provide top-level strategic guidance on a biennial basis. It provides a logical cascading expansion of direction from the top-level down to Working Party tasking. It emphasizes a broad spectrum of doctrinal, operational and materiel issues, and will ensure that the product of the ASCC continues to enhance the interoperability of the member air forces.
- **The ASCC Instructions.** The ASCC Instructions cover all the administrative procedures associated with ASCC and detail each ASCC member's function and responsibility.



MANAGEMENT

The ASCC nations have standardization representatives at three levels: National Directors of one or two star rank; the Management Committee – Lieutenant Colonel equivalents; and the Assistants for Standardization - Lieutenant Colonel or Major equivalents. Chairmanship of the ASCC and the Management Committee (MC) rotates after the National Directors' meeting.

National Directors. The ASCC Air Forces' Chiefs of Staffs have each appointed a flag rank officer to oversee national standardization matters; their post title is *ASCC National Director*. The National Directors meet annually to formulate policy and direct activities of the ASCC organization. They direct the mission, goals, and tasks of the ASCC through the biennial Task Order. The National Directors' posts are:

- Australia: Director General Aerospace Development
- Canada: Director General Air Force Development
- New Zealand: Deputy Chief of Air Staff
- United Kingdom: Director of Equipment Capability (Theatre Airspace)
- United States: Director of Operational Requirements

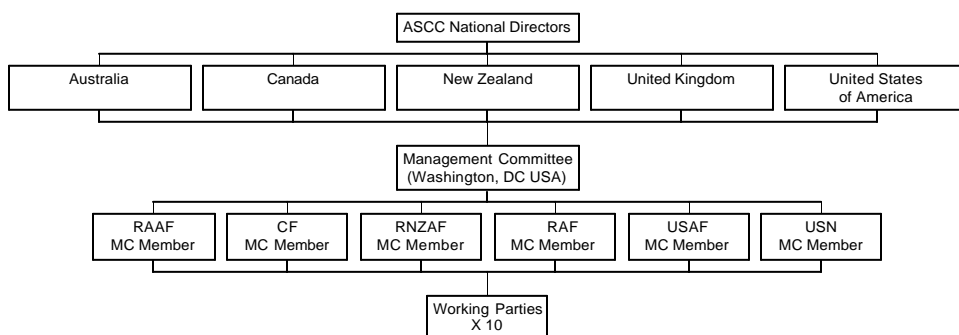


Figure 2.1: ASCC International Organization

Management Committee. The National Directors' policies are implemented by the Management Committee. The MC Members function collectively as an international secretariat and individually as Standing Chairmen for the organization's Working Parties. The MC is based in Washington DC.

Assistants for Standardization. The Assistants for Standardization (A/Stands) are the national coordinators of the ASCC program. Effectively, the A/Stand is the National Director's advisor and executive assistant on ASCC matters.

Working Parties. The tasks of the ASCC are carried out by 10 specialist Working Parties (WP). The number of members attached to each WP varies from five to 60. The Directive and Synopsis for each WP, along with a listing of current projects and documents, is published in the ASCC Task Order. Working Party Management Plans, detailed Project Sheets and a record of WP activity is recorded in the Working Party Meeting Reports.

Working Party Structure. At the national level, each Working Party has one Coordinating Member (CM) who is responsible to the Assistant for Standardization for national issues and to the WP Standing Chairman for actions arising from Working Party meetings. Nations may appoint Project Officers (POs) who are subject matter experts to assist with specific project action and development.

Working Party Meetings. As a rule, the Working Party members will meet for five days every 12-18 months, each nation taking turns to host the meeting. However, the majority of work is carried out by correspondence between the meetings. A meeting schedule is available on the ASCC homepage.

Task Achievement. The objectives of the ASCC are accomplished through the development of standardization agreements called Air Standards. Air Standards are developed by the Working Parties through Projects. Each Project has its own enabling objective and scope and is managed by a custodian or coordinator. The Coordinating Member of the nation assigned custody of a Project is responsible for its progression. The aim of a Project is to collect, collate and review similar information that will lead to the production of an AIR STD.

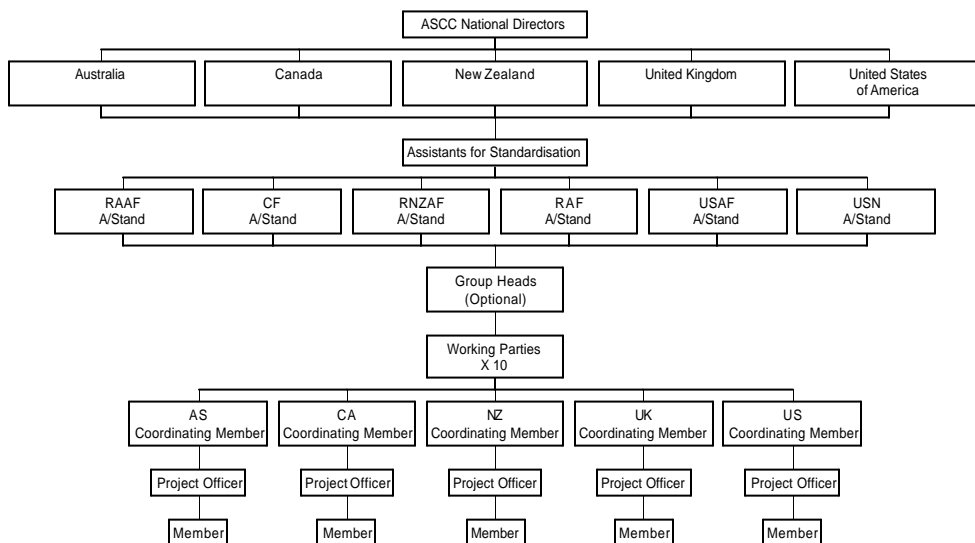


Figure 2.2: ASCC National Organization

WORKING PARTIES

WP 15 - Aviation Fuels, Lubricants, Associated Products & Gases

Directive - to develop agreements governing the quality of aviation fuels, lubricants, associated products, gases and related equipment from origin to point of issue, to meet agreed ASCC operational standardization requirements

WP 20 - Air Armament

Directive - to develop standards for the characteristics, design requirements, testing and installation of air armament to permit interoperability between member nations' air forces

WP 25 - Aerospace Engineering, Maintenance and Logistics

Directive - to address the interoperability requirements of aircraft servicing, maintenance, engineering and logistic support (excluding armament and POL requirements), including related environmental issues

WP 44 - Integrated Airlift Systems

Directive - to address the coalition capability requirements of military airlift systems

WP 45 - Air Operations and Doctrine

Directive - to direct efforts that will lead to standardization of doctrine, concepts and related procedures to enhance joint and combined air operations. Additionally, WP45 is to take a pivotal role in providing guidance to the other ASCC WPs

WP 61 - Aerospace Medicine, Life Support and Aircrew Systems

Directive - to progress standardization in the fields of aerospace medicine, life support and aircrew systems, in order to achieve and maintain relevant operational standardization requirements

WP 70 - Mission Avionics

Directive - to promote interoperability in the areas of airborne communications, identification and navigation systems in order to achieve specified operational standardization requirements

WP 80 - Reconnaissance and Imagery Intelligence

Directive - to obtain interoperability of the equipment and procedures used throughout the reconnaissance cycle in order to achieve and maintain specified relevant operational standardization requirements

WP 84 – Nuclear Biological and Chemical Defensive Measures

Directive - to develop standards for member Air Forces to promote the interoperability of procedures, equipment and operational training criteria in the field of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence (NBCD) in military operations, jointly with the American, British, Canadian and Australian (ABCA) Quadripartite Working Group (QWG) on NBCD as appropriate

WP 90 – Aeronautical Information, Airfield Facilities and Air Traffic Services

Directive - to standardize coalition capability requirements in the fields of aeronautical information (Flight Information Publications, aeronautical chart overprints and digital data), airfield facilities and air traffic services



LIAISON WITH OTHER STANDARDIZATION ORGANIZATIONS

To reduce the possibility of duplication of effort both within the ASCC and with other standardization organizations, the ASCC supports two levels of liaison. Each Working Party Project Officer is required to liaise with any other ASCC Working Party or outside agency that has similar areas of interest. The Management Committee members each have responsibilities for liaison with sister standardization groups at the management level. Multifora meetings are held tri-annually by the Washington based staffs of each organization.

Organization	MC Liaison Member
• Australian British Canadian and American Armies (ABCA)	Canada
• Combined Communications and Electronics Board (CCEB)	New Zealand
• The Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP)	New Zealand
• NATO Standardization Agency (NSA)	USAF
• Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States Navies (AUSCANNZUKUS)	Australia
• Multinational Interoperability Council (MIC)	MC Chairman (Rotational)

CONTACT DETAILS

Management Committee

1815 N Fort Myer Drive – Suite 400
Arlington, VA 22209-1809

Telephone +1 703 696 8473
Facsimile +1 703 696 5499 (DSN 426)

<http://www.xo.hq.af.mil/xor/xorg-iso/ascc/>

Management Committee Members' telephone numbers/email addresses are:

Australia	1 703 696 8452	asccmcas@pentagon.af.mil
Canada	1 703 696 8472	asccmcca@pentagon.af.mil
New Zealand	1 703 696 8453	asccmcnz@pentagon.af.mil
United States Air Force	1 703 696 8422 DSN 426 8422	asccmcus@pentagon.af.mil
United States Navy	1 703 695 2847 DSN 223 2847	Fax 1 703 695 2965

Assistants for Standardization

The contact details of the Assistants for Standardization are:

Australia	+ 61 2 6265 5538	
Canada	+ 1 613 995 6923	DSN 842 6923
New Zealand	+ 64 4 496 0540	
United Kingdom	+ 44 171 218 0908	
United States Air Force	+ 1 703 696 8422	DSN 426 8422
United States Navy	+ 1 703 695 2847	DSN 223 3559

Working Party Standing Chairman

WP 15 / 20 / 84	Canada Management Committee Member
WP 25 / 44 / 90	Australia Management Committee Member
WP 61 / 70 / 80	New Zealand Management Committee Member
WP 45	USAF Management Committee Member

Administration Staff

Reception	+1 703 696 8473	asccad01@pentagon.af.mil
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Air Standardization Coordinating Committee

1815 N Fort Myer Drive – Suite 400
Arlington, VA, USA 22209-1809

AUSTRALIA CANADA NEW ZEALAND UNITED KINGDOM UNITED STATES